

A PROPOSED OVERTURE ON ADJUSTMENT.

(The following paper was offered to East Hanover Presbytery as an overture to the General Assembly and was adopted with a modification which is herein indicated.)

"1. East Hanover Presbytery respectfully and earnestly overtures the General Assembly to meet in Savannah, Georgia, May 20, 1909, to appoint a permanent Committee to be known as the Committee of Adjustment.

"2. This Committee shall be composed of seven members nominated by a special committee of five carefully chosen by the Moderator of the Assembly. The effort should be to place upon the Committee of Adjustment some of the broadest, the most judicious and best men of the Church.

"3. The members of the Adjustment Committee shall consist of three classes, appointed to serve one, two and three years respectively.

"4. The duties of this Committee shall be to adjust the relations of the several Executive Committees of the General Assembly as to the amount of money to be asked by each Committee from the Church and the measure of time to be employed by each in pressing its claims.

"5. It shall be required of each Executive Committee that it forward to the Committee of Adjustment, at least two months before the meeting of the General Assembly, a statement of its financial needs for the coming year and the grounds on which such estimate is based.

"6. These estimates shall be carefully considered by the Committee of Adjustment and its recommendations reported to the General Assembly."

The conviction of the necessity of some action in the matter here presented has been growing for many months throughout the bounds of our Church.

The direction of the different branches of the Church work, has been placed in the hands of Executive Committees. Each committee is expected to give its most earnest and careful attention to the special work entrusted to its charge that that work may be wisely extended and solidly built up. As the committee studies its specific field of labor its view of the importance of that field grows and its efforts in pressing its claims correspondingly grow. We need not be surprised, that in the expansion and development of our work there arises the need of some regulative agency or balance wheel to prevent friction, and to secure the harmonious and effective movement of all the parts of the Church's machinery.

Such regulative agency is here proposed.

First note the name, Committee of Adjustment. This is not an ambitious name, but one that carries with it sufficient dignity for the work to be performed.

The duties of this committee are restricted to two matters, (1) fixing the amount of money that each executive committee may ask of the church, and (2) the determination of the measure of time to be used by said committee in its effort to secure the sum asked.

This committee is thoroughly Presbyterian in character, and not clothed with any undue authority. The Committee of Adjustment is to have no power to act independently. Its province is to consider the matter placed before it, and report its recommendations to the Assembly for approval, amendment or rejection. In this it will be seen that it occupies the same position as that held by the executive committees of the church. Indeed, the position is lower so far as independent action is concerned for an executive committee acts in many matters, and reports to the Assembly not proposed action but action already taken.

It is necessary that the Committee of Adjustment should be permanent. The relative financial needs of all departments of the church's work, and the time necessary for pressing those needs upon the attention of the people would have to be considered. This would be impossible for any standing committee, though composed of the ablest and best men. A permanent committee, however, such as is suggested, would have adequate time for gathering and considering the necessary information.

The amendment introduced into the original overture, and adopted by the Presbytery would fail, we believe, to meet the needs of the case. According to this amendment the work of an Adjustment Committee is to be referred to the Committee on Systematic Beneficence of the General Assembly. The Presbytery would make this committee permanent, as has been done in the proposed Adjustment Committee.

This would not answer because the Committee on Systematic Beneficence already has as heavy a burden as any one committee should have imposed upon it. The matters of detail to be considered are very many, and the principles and methods of giving are to be passed upon. The consideration of such matters would greatly embarrass and hinder an Adjustment Committee in its great work. Such a committee should be left free to give its entire time and attention to the question of adjusting the relations of the executive committees in the two very important matters named.

Again the Committee on Systematic Beneficence has a certain standing and history in the mind of the church. While possessed of importance it is not regarded as one of the committees of highest importance in the Assembly and the old name would tend to keep it from rising to a position of first importance.

Further it would be found difficult to get the best and most competent men to serve on a Committee of Systematic Beneficence loaded down with the great work proposed, and in addition cumbered with the multitudinous matters belonging to the old Committee on Beneficence.

What is gladness without gratitude,
And where is gratitude without a God?

He is rich who has enough to be charitable.—Sir Thomas Browne.

In every person who comes near you,
look for what is good and strong; honor that; rejoice in it, and, as you can, try to imitate it.

RATES TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

The Southeastern Passenger Association has authorized a round-trip excursion ticket from specified points to Savannah, on account of the General Assembly. On sale May 17, 18 and 19 and for trains scheduled to arrive in Savannah before noon of May 20; also for all trains May 24. Tickets will be good to leave Savannah, returning, up to and including, but not later than, midnight of June 2. Going trip must begin on date of sale indicated on each ticket by selling agent, and must be used by continuous passage to Savannah. Return trip must begin on the date stamped on back of ticket by agent at Savannah, and ticket must be used by continuous passage to original starting point. Tickets must be signed by purchasers in presence of selling agents at time of purchase, and that they may be honored for return passage, they must be stamped by authorized validating agents in Savannah. They must read by same route going and returning. Stop-overs will be allowed in accordance with the regulations of the carriers over whose lines the tickets read, as on file with the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Price of these round trips is virtually three cents a mile, and only from specified stations, and at prices listed in circular of the Association, Joint Passenger Tariff, Excursion number, 4,021. The Atlantic Coast Line, the Central of Georgia, the Seaboard Air Line and the Southern railways will also sell at stations intermediate to those named in the tariff circular, the rate being the same as from next more distant station from which fare is shown in the published list. Rates are available to visitors as well as to commissioners. Children go at one-half rates.

It is important that each party intending to make this trip should, by inquiry well in advance, ascertain if the agent at his station is authorized to sell, and if not, inquire at some larger station near, and ascertain rate from that point. Any one writing to me for rate from his or nearby station, and letting me know his road, will receive information promptly.

It will be noticed that tickets will be on sale Monday, May 24. This is to accommodate visitors who wish to attend after Sabbath, or after the routine of the first few days, devoted to receiving and referring business, has been completed. This is the first time I have ever asked or the roads have ever given a special sale for the second week.

Application has been made to the Trans-Mississippi lines for union rates with the above, and results will be published as soon as secured.

W. A. Alexander, S. C.

There was never a night without a day,
Nor an evening without a morning,
And the darkest hour, the proverb goes,
Is the hour before the dawning.

—C. Mackey.

The doctrine of environment had its death-blow in the garden of Eden.—G. Campbell Morgan.

It is faith in something, and enthusiasm for something, that makes a life worth looking at.—Oliver Wendell Holmes.